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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/828,513	04/19/2004	Christopher T. Szeto	12729-88	4296
56020 7590 07/24/2007 BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE / YAHOO! OVERTURE P.O. BOX 10395 CHICAGO, IL 60610			EXAMINER ULRICH, NICHOLAS S	
			ART UNIT 2173	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 07/24/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/828,513

Applicant(s)

SZETO, CHRISTOPHER T.

Examiner

Nicholas S. Ulrich

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 May 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-19 are pending
2. Claims 1-19 are amended.
3. Claims 1-19 are rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Becker et al. (US 6981223 B2) and Werndorfer (Trillian Instant Messaging Program).

In regard to **claims 1 and 2**, Becker discloses a method for displaying multiple content pages in an instant messenger application, the method comprising:

displaying a friends list page in an instant messenger window, wherein the friends list page displays a set of users that send and receive a plurality of instant messages within an instant messaging community (*Fig 12 element 1202 and Column 19 lines 33-35*);

displaying a content of a first interactive content tab in the instant messenger window at the same time that at least a portion of the friends list page is also displayed in the instant messenger window (*Fig 12 element 1210 and Column 19 lines 35-36*);

and preventing a user in the set of users from hiding all of the friends list page from view in the instant messenger window (*Fig 12 and Column 19 lines 33-34*)

While Becker teaches preventing users from hiding friends list page, they fail to show the maintaining a pre-programmed minimum height for the friends list page as recited in the claims. Werndorfer teaches an instant messaging interface similar to that of Becker. In addition, Werndorfer further teaches a pre-programmed minimum height for the friends list page (*Figures 5, 6, 7, and 8: The operation of the software program, Trillian, demonstrates the inability to shrink the friends list page smaller then a preprogrammed height. When looking at figure 5, we see a box around the Trillian interface. This box represents a click and drag of the corner for making the size of the window larger, resulting in figure 6. Fig 7 also shows a box but it is within the Trillian interface. This is a click and drag operation of the corner to make the Trillian interface smaller. When performing this function, the interface will not allow the box to become any smaller then shown in figure 7 resulting in figure 8. This shows that the contact window cannot be shrunk below a predetermined threshold*). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Becker and Werndorfer before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the inability to hide all the fiends list page taught by Becker to include the pre-programmed minimum height of Werndorfer, in order to obtain preventing a set of users from hiding all of the friends list page by maintaining a pre-programmed minimum height for the friends list page. It would have been advantageous for one to utilize such a combination in order to restrict the interface from becoming to small to operate.

In regard to **claims 3 and 4**, while Becker teaches interactive content tabs, they fail to show the retrieving content of the first interactive content tab from a web page as recited in the claims. Werndorfer teaches a an instant messaging interface similar to that of Becker. In addition, Werndorfer further teaches content received from the web (*Fig 4: The drawer that slides out when the user selects a tab displays shortcuts to web pages. When a user selects a shortcut, the webpage is displayed in a corresponding window on the display*). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Becker and Werndorfer before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the interactive content tabs taught by Becker to include the content received from the web of Werndorfer, in order to obtain interactive content tabs that display information obtained from the web. It would have been advantageous for one to utilize such a combination as consolidation of various panels to achieve a single window pane greatly facilitates user tasks as suggested by Becker (Column 19 lines 46-49).

In regard to **claim 5**, Becker discloses wherein displaying the content of the first interactive content tab further comprises displaying the content of the first interactive content tab when the user in the set of users selects a first tab in a tab selector region of the instant messenger window (*Column 13 lines 55-57*).

In regard to **claim 6**, Becker discloses displaying the content of a second interactive content tab in the instant messenger window when the user in the set of

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users selects a second tab in the tab selector region, the second interactive content tab being displayed at the same time that at least a portion of the friends list is also displayed in the instant messenger window (*Column 13 lines 54-58*).

In regard to **claim 7**, Becker discloses hiding the content of the first interactive content tab when the content of the second interactive content tab is displayed in the instant messenger window (*Column 13 line 66 – Column 14 line 2*).

In regard to **claim 8**, Becker discloses wherein the content of the first interactive content tab overlaps the content of the second interactive content tab in the instant messenger window (*Fig 12 elements 1210 and 1212*).

In regard to **claim 9**, Becker discloses minimizing the first interactive content tab in response to a user request so that the content is not visible in the instant messenger window (*Column 13 line 66 – Column 14 line 2*).

In regard to **claim 10**, Becker discloses sending a message from a first instant messenger user to a second instant messenger user in the friends list in response to the first instant messenger user selecting the content in the first interactive content tab, wherein the message relates to the selected content (*Column 13 lines 29-41*).

In regard to **claims 11-19**, computer program product claims 11-19 correspond generally to method claims 1-4 and 6-10, respectively, and recite similar features in computer program form, and therefore are rejected under the same rationale.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-19 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

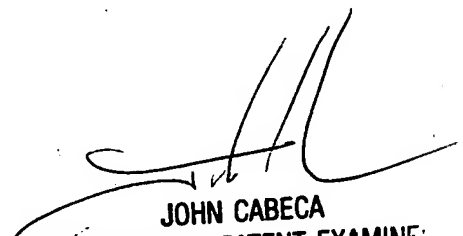
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7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nicholas S. Ulrich whose telephone number is 571-270-1397. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH 9:00 - 5:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on 571-272-4048. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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